

We Want You to Report Rain and Snow
Join CoCoRaHS Today!

Are you a “weather enthusiast” who enjoys a good thunderstorm in the summer? Do you go online and look at the latest weather models when a winter storm may be approaching? If so, you should join the growing network of volunteer observers who report precipitation. **We are in need of more observers in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts (and other states too!)**



CoCoRaHS, the **Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow** network is a national non-profit network of volunteers who work together to measure and map precipitation. Observers in all 50 states, Canada, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, the District of Columbia, and even the White House submit daily precipitation amounts through a web site or a mobile app.

How will your reports be used? In many ways! Just this past weekend, forecasters at the NWS Taunton, MA office used CoCoRaHS reports not only to include in storm report listings **but to help issue timely Flash Flood Warnings to help save lives.** CoCoRaHS observers can send Significant Weather Reports (like the one below) which are immediately received and are automatically alerted at NWS forecasters’ workstations.

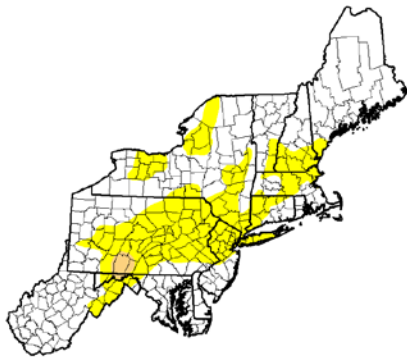
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intense rain report from CoCoRAHS spotter:

10/21/2016 11:30 PM local time
County: Middlesex MA
Somerville 0.7 SSE (number MA-MD-74)
Latitude: 42.382003
Longitude: -71.094581
1.77 inches so far, with 0.28 inches in the past 60 mins
Flooding:
Comments: Rain has mostly stopped, standing water in the yard is gone
except in isolated puddles

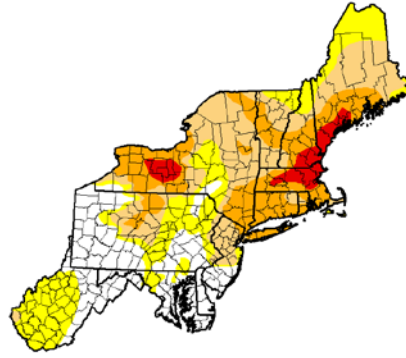
Received NWS Boulder Fri Oct 21 21:41:19 2016 MDT
Sent to WFOs: BOX
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CoCoRaHS Significant Weather Report

Since the summer, NWS offices have relied heavily on CoCoRaHS monthly rainfall totals from each of the three southern New England states to help with the assessment of drought conditions. The reports help with drought analysis maps like the ones you see below.



US Drought Monitor Map as of May 17, 2016



US Drought Monitor Map as of October 18, 2016

How do you sign up? Go to the [CoCoRaHS Sign Up page](#) and enter your information. After registering, take the [simple online training](#), order your 4 inch diameter rain gauge, and start reporting! You can obtain the network's 4 inch diameter plastic rain gauge through the [CoCoRaHS website](#) for about \$30 plus shipping. Many other commercial weather supply companies also sell the 4 inch diameter rain gauge.

There are no prerequisites or qualifications to become involved – simply a desire to go outside to take weather observations will suffice. Then, before heading off to school or work, volunteers simply observe and record the weather and take any necessary measurements depending on the type of precipitation. Data collected is reported by uploading it on the CoCoRaHS website or by using the organization's smartphone app.

When life gets busy, volunteers can enter multi-day precipitation reports to make up for missed days – numbers that are just as valuable for monthly, seasonal and annual data studies.

In addition to helping the weather community, volunteers also personally benefit from the program. Many volunteers use the data they collect to determine when to water their gardens or lawns or to better interpret unusual weather patterns that occur throughout the year. It's fun and educational!

CoCoRaHS began at Colorado State University in 1998, after a devastating flash flood that occurred in Fort Collins, Colorado, in late July 1997 caused \$200 million in damages and the loss of 5 lives. CoCoRaHS was created with the intent of doing a better job of mapping and reporting intense storms. As more volunteers participated, rain, hail, and snow maps were produced for every storm showing fascinating local patterns that were of great interest to scientists and the public.

For more information, visit one of the State Pages listed below or contact your State Coordinator:

Connecticut: Matt Spies (matt.spies@att.net)

Massachusetts: Joe DelliCarpini (Joseph.Dellicarpini@noaa.gov)

Rhode Island: Bill Simpson (William.Simpson@noaa.gov) or Joe DelliCarpini

